

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7424
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USUN NEW YORK 5909

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6740

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, YS, SA
SUBJ: VISIT OF PDRY FON MIN TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 6368

SUMMARY: PRAVDA MAY 14 REPORT ON VISIT OF PDRY FONMIN
EMPHASIZES DEVELOPMENTS IN RED SEA REGION AS DID REPORT ON
MAY 11 MEETING BETWEEN GROMYKO AND FONMIN. EMBASSY FEELS
THAT NEXT STEP IN CURRENT ROUND OF SOVIET DIPLOMACY IN RED
SEA REGION MAY BE DIRECT APPROACH TO SOMALIS. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 14 PRAVDA CARRIES TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE-LIKE REPORT
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ON MAY 10 - 12 VISIT OF PDRY FONMIN MUTIYA. REPORT DESCRIBES
ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
AND NOTES IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET-PDRY COOPERATION IN
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL "AND OTHER" (A USUAL
EUPHEMISM FOR "MILITARY") SPHERES. REPORT
MENTIONS, AS DID TASS ARTICLE ON MAY 11 MEETING
BETWEEN UTIYA AND BREZHNEV, SIGNIFICANCE WHICH

THIS COOPERATION HAS FOR STRENGTHENING PDRY INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. WHERE REPORT ONLY NOTES GENERAL DETERMINATION OF TWO SIDES TO FURTHER DEVELOP COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP, TASS ARTICLE ON BREZHNEV MEETING SAID HE AFFIRMED THAT SOVIET UNION WILL EXTEND ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PDRY IN THE FUTURE FOR "CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LIFE AND STRENGTHENING OF INDEPENDENCE." WHILE THIS CERTAINLY MEANS SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN PDRY, IT DOES NOT INDICATE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE AGREED. THIS OPINION IS SHARED BY YAR DCM GAHAF TO WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE MAY 13. SIGNIFICANCE OF BREZHNEV MEETING IS THAT MEETING WAS HELD. IT SHOWS THAT THERE IS HIGH LEVEL SOVIET CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RED SEA REGION.

2. MAY 14 PRAVDA REPORT EMPHASIZES SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN SITUATION IN ME DURING DISCUSSIONS. WHILE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS NOT MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY, PDRY IS SAID TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF SOVIET UNION DIRECTED TOWARD "JUST SETTLEMENT" IN ME AND SECURING OF "LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE." TASS REPORT OF MAY 11 MEETING BETWEEN GROMYKO AND MUTIYA, HOWEVER, DID STATE THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS PAID TO ACTIVIZATION OF EFFORTS FOR SPEEDIEST RECONVENING OF WORK OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. DESPITE THIS MENTION OF ME, POLITICAL EMPHASIS DURING MUTIYA VISIT SEEMED CENTERED ON EVENTS IN RED
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SEA REGION AND HORN OF AFRICA. BOTH OF LATTER AREAS WERE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY IN TASS REPORT ON GROMYKO-MUTIYA MEETING WHICH EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONSOLIDATION OF ALL "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" FOR COUNTERACTION AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY IMPERIALISM AND REACTION TO CREATE IN THIS REGION NEW CENTERS OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION. MAY 14 PRAVDA REPORT REPEATED THIS LANGUAGE AND ADDED A CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION OF REGION INTO A ZONE OF PEACE (PROCEEDING FROM THE FACT THAT THE RED SEA IS A BODY OF WATER ENCOMPASSING "THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL SEA LANES"). PRAVDA REPORT ALSO ADDS THAT CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN REGION WOULD ENABLE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL GOVERNMENTS OF REGION ON BASIS OF NON-INTERFERENCE, RESPECT FOR RIGHT OF EACH TO INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT, AND "UNIFICATION OF THEIR EFFORTS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES." EMBASSY INTERPRETS THIS LANGUAGE, WHICH IS SIMILAR

TO THAT USED DURING PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S RECENT VISIT (REFTEL), AS CONTINUED INDICATION THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN UP ON SOMALIA, BUT WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO SOMALIS THE CHOICE WHICH THEY HAVE OF REMAINING IN THE PROGRESSIVE CAMP OR OF DRIFTING TOWARD THE REACTIONARY, IMPERIALIST CAMP.

4. DURING MAY 11 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, YAR DCM AGREE THAT RED SEA-HORN OF AFRICA CONCERNS WERE PROBABLY PARAMOUNT DURING VISIT, BUT HE ALSO FELT THAT SOVIET - PDRY BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WAS DISCUSSED. HE FELT THAT SOVIETS PROBABLY EXPECTED AN EXPLANATION OF PDRY INVOLVEMENT IN TA'IZ SUMMIT AS WELL AS BRIEFING ON RECENT EXCHANGE OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN PDRY AND SAUDI ARABIA.

5. PRAVDA REPORT ALSO INCLUDES COMMENT ON SUPPORT
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FOR:

-THE "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND PERSIAN GULF FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE;

--THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS (PRECISELY THE SAME FORMULA USED IN THE MENGISTU VISIT COMMUNIQUE);

--THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE.

6. DURING HIS VISIT MATIYA ALSO MET WITH CC CPSU SECRETARY PONOMAREV AND (REPORTEDLY) CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION SKACHKOV. REPORT ON PONOMAREV MEETING STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PARTY TO PARTY TIES, A THEME REPEATED IN MAY 14 PRAVDA REPORT ON OVERALL VISIT.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE MENGISTU AND MATIYA VISITS ARE PART OF A CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED SOVIET ATTEMPT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE PROBLEM OF SOMALI REACTION TO THE INCREASING WARMTH OF THE SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP. MOSCOW'S MESSAGE TO MOGADISCIO IS (1) THAT THEY CONSIDER THE PMAC PART OF THE "PROGRESSIVE CAMP" AND THEY INTEND TO SUPPORT IT; (2) THAT PDRY CONSIDERS ITSELF IN THIS CAMP AS WELL, AND (3) THAT IT IS NOT THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS DRIVING SOMALIA AWAY FROM THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, BUT RATHER IT IS SOMALIA WHICH HAS THE CHOICE OF REMAINING IN THE "PROGRESSIVE CAMP" AND CONTINUING TO RECEIVE SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY

ASSISTANCE OR OF MOVING TOWARD THE CAMP OF "REACTION
AND IMPERIALISM" AND JEOPARDIZING THAT ASSISTANCE
AS WELL AS HELPING TO CREATE A SOURCE OF TENSION
IN THE REGION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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